Amendments to the Specification

Replace pending paragraph number [027] with the following replacement paragraph:

[027] Referring to Figure 7, the gate assembly 182 is better illustrated. It will be appreciated that in this embodiment, gate assembly 180 is generally identical to gate assembly 182. A recess 178 is formed in each shoulder 174, 176 of the first and second sprue bushings 160, 162. An insert 188 is fitted inside the recess 178 and a spring 190 is fixed to an inner wall 192 thereof. Alternatively, the spring 190 may be fixed to a bottom surface 199 [[194]] of the insert 188. The post 186 is received within the insert 188 and is coupled to the spring 190. The spring 190 biases the post 186 toward the melt interrupted position, shown in Figures 4, 5 and 7. In the melt interrupted position, the cover plate 184 of the first gate assembly 180 covers the outlet 170 ~~inlet 172~~ of the first ~~second~~ sprue bushing 160 [[162]]. At the same time, the cover plate 184 of the second gate assembly 182 covers the inlet 172 ~~outlet 170~~ of the second [[first]] sprue bushing 162 [[160]]. In this arrangement, the flow of melt is restricted from both of the sprue bushings 160, 162 simultaneously.

Replace pending paragraph number [031] with the following replacement paragraph:

[031] Referring to Figure 8, a further embodiment of a melt transfer device 240 for a stack injection molding apparatus is shown. In this embodiment, the springs 190 of the embodiment of Figures 5-7 are replaced by pistons 202. Seals 204 are provided between each piston 202 and a corresponding cylinder 206. Gate assemblies 280 and 282 each include a rod 286 [[186]] that extends from the piston 202 and a cover plate 284 [[184]] that moves into and out of engagement with an outlet 270 of a first sprue channel 208

and an inlet 272 and an inlet 272 of a second sprue channel 210. The cylinders 206 contain a constant volume of air. When the gate assemblies 280, 282 are in the closed position, as shown in Figure 8, a volume V1 and a pressure P1 are measurable behind the piston 202. When the gate assembly 282 opens, i.e., [[ie.]] moves in the direction of arrow 211 [[210]], to allow the melt stream to flow from the first sprue channel 208 to the second sprue channel 210, the volume of air behind the piston 202 decreases to V2 and the pressure increases to P2. An air cushion is created behind the piston 202, which acts as a spring. In this embodiment, there is no addition to or removal of air from the cylinder 206.

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached six sheets of drawings, including the title "Replacement Sheet," include changes to each of Figures 3-8 as outlined below. Please replace pending Figures 3-8 with the attached replacement Figures 3-8.

The following amendments have been made and six sheets of annotated drawings, including the title "Annotated Sheet Showing Changes," are also attached with the changes to Figures 3-8 circled in red:

In Figure 3:

Reference Number ("Ref. No.") 100 has been added.

Ref. No. 174 has been replaced with Ref. No. 180.

Ref. No. 176 has been replaced with Ref. No. 182.

Ref. Nos. 300 and 302 have been added.

In Figure 4:

Ref. No. 100 has been added.

Ref. No. 174 has been replaced with Ref. No. 180.

Ref. No. 176 has been replaced with Ref. No. 182.

Lead line for Ref. No. 138 has been shortened.

In Figure 5:

Ref. No. 186 have been added.

Lead lines for Ref. Nos. 180 and 182 have been redrawn.

In Figure 6:

Lead lines for Ref. Nos. 180 and 182 have been redrawn.

In Figure 7:

Ref. No. 162 has been added.

Ref. Nos. 196 and 198, and respective corresponding structure, have been added.

Ref. No. 194 has been replaced with Ref. No. 199 in reference to a bottom surface of insert 188.

In Figure 8:

Lead line and Ref. No. 282 have been moved and redrawn.

Lead line for Ref. No. 280 has been redrawn.

Ref. No. 210 has been replaced with Ref. No. 211 in reference to the "arrow."